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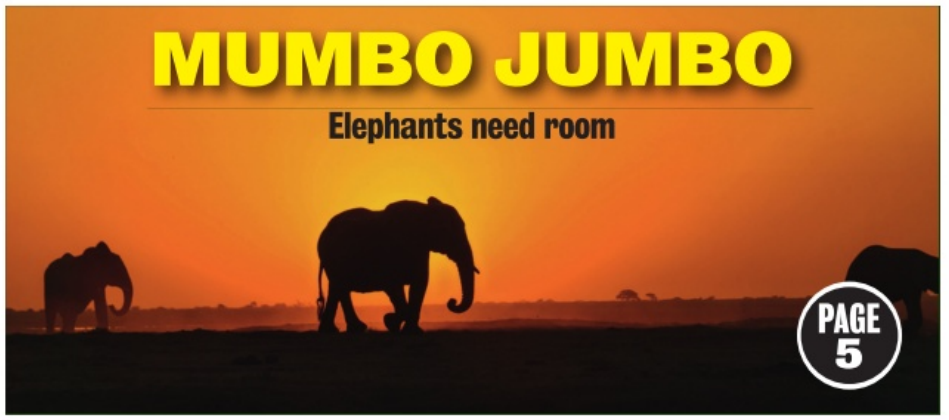
Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 91% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 56,072 | Nifty 16,719 | Gold 50,680 | Silver 55,100 | Dollar 79.85 | Euro 81.55 | GBP 95.85



URBAN SKETCHES: Techie's drawings on daily commute highlight need to reclaim right of way for cyclists, public spaces for ordinary Bengalureans

CYCLE OF LIFE, ILLUSTRATED

'A cyclist is the most forgotten person on the road'

| Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Recently, a taxi driver hurled abuses at a cyclist when she was patiently waiting for him to move and make way.

The cabbie had suddenly stopped in front of her at a bus stop to pick up passengers where only BMTC buses are allowed to halt. This incident may well have been enough to start a verbal duel in many instances. However, Shilpi Sahu, a city-based techie and avid cyclist, opted for the creative route to register her protest.

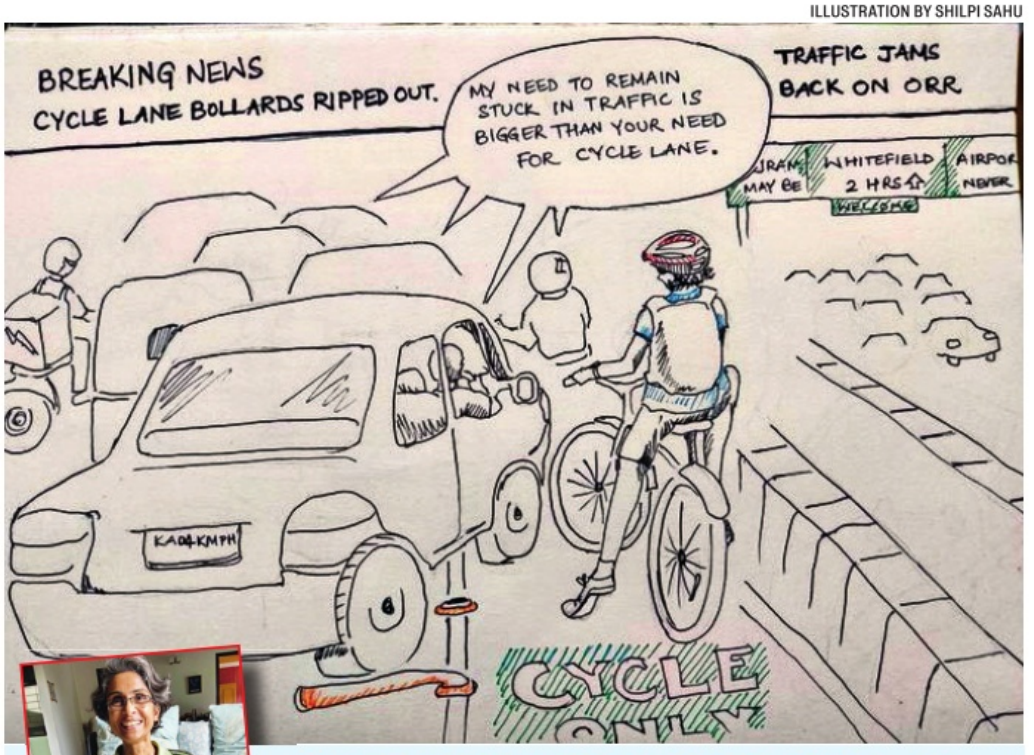
Sahu's is indeed a novel way to reclaim space for urban cyclists. Now, through her illustrations and caricatures on urban commute, Sahu is creating awareness, giving a voice for many ordinary Bengalureans who feel cheated of their right of way.

She has been pedalling to her workplace for over a decade and has often seen cyclists being pushed to the corner by motorists; their basic rights such as a dedicated cycle lane encroached as motorists drive through and park on cycle lanes.

Sahu who regularly cycles to work on Outer Ring Road said she

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

ILLUSTRATION BY SHILPI SAHU


BREAKING NEWS
CYCLE LANE BOLLARDS RIPPED OUT.
MY NEED TO REMAIN STUCK IN TRAFFIC IS BIGGER THAN YOUR NEED FOR CYCLE LANE.
TRAFFIC JAMS BACK ON ORR
WHITEFIELD 2 HRS
AIRPOR NEVER
MAY BE
CYCLE

"Cab driver hurled abuses at me... He had stopped in front of me at a bus stop to pick up passengers where only BMTC buses are allowed to halt — Shilpi Sahu

Touch Wood

Latest thing for city students is learning about wood at Institute of Wood Science and Technology

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Institute of Wood Science and Technology (IWST) is now a popular educational tour destination for city-based schools. Post pandemic, schools are calling the institute, booking the slots and walking in with troops of children, who spend hours learning about wood science alongside forests and environment.

The latest was a group of over 300 students from Presidency School in Yelahanka.

On a trip organised a week ago, the high school students got a chance to touch and feel various types of wood, learned how to predict the age of wood and stumbled upon unconventional career opportunities.

"The first batch of students from our school went to IWST a week ago. Students got to know about various types of wood and attended a live tissue culture session. They have only been reading about it so far. The institute also runs several courses in wood science and technology. Yet another idea behind the trip was to make them aware of interesting career options beyond the conventional path," said Deepa K Abraham, coordinator, Presidency School, Yelahanka.

While IWST has tied up with Kendriya Vidyalaya and Navodaya Vidyalaya schools in the city for educational trips, it is the private educational institutions that are reaping the benefits. According to IWST, the initiative to have school and college students on the campus was taken up under the Prakriti programme.

"We have tied up with KVS and NVS

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Clay time, folks!

Come and experience the joy of working with clay in a fun and relaxed environment. You will gain an understanding of how to form shapes through hand building without the use of tools or machines. This workshop will focus on making articles using a specific technique which is perfect for beginners. Let your creative side emerge as you roll, pinch and shape clay. You will be guided on how to turn the basic forms into a decorative or functional piece. **Where: Bangalore Creative Circus, Yeswanthpur Industrial Suburb**
When: July 24, 11 am – 1 pm
Register: 9727582092/ 8296105847

02 Bhangra, anyone?

A dance form which has had humble rural beginnings and is now recognised on a global level, Bhangra is popular not only due to its cultural essence but also due to its fitness benefits. Sign up to burn calories in a fun way or to learn a new dance form or strengthen your Bhangra skills. **Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar**
When: July 24, 12 pm – 2 pm; Tickets: 9886294444

03 Groove it, folks!

Phoenix Marketcity is all set to host Phoenix Night Market, the biggest night market in town to make your weekend fun-packed, complete with food, music, DJ, and a flea market. On the itinerary will be live performances with band 'Gaata Hai Dil" and DJ Progressive Brothers on the 23rd of July. The 24th of July will see performances from Dhruv and three other musicians from 4Octave, and DJ Sonia aka DJ Jungle Baby. **Where: Courtyard-Phoenix Market city; When: July 24, 5:00 pm**

Education in digital times: For teachers, by teachers

Online community of more than 56,000 teachers share tips, tricks to adapt to a rapidly changing learning system

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Making the classroom experience better is important to help students focus in these times

With the education system in the country transforming rapidly over the past few years, government schools across the state have been struggling to maintain an equal quality of education. Virtual classes and implementation of the New Education Policy brought challenges to the public sector of education which had already been struggling due to a lack of infrastructure and manpower.

To combat these challenges, a group of about 56,000+ government teachers/educationists came together and formed an online community called 'Shikshana Ilake' with a common goal to motivate each other and share interesting ways and techniques that they are adopting to teach their students as well as to keep in touch.

"It was started to bring together all the government school teachers to help each other to come up with ways to help engage with students and create course materials for the students that will help them study better. We share subject materials and relevant videos that can be used in the classroom to make difficult concepts easier.

"We also work towards making classroom experience better which will motivate the students to come to class every day and enjoy learning." said MM Podhara, a government school teacher.

Ravi Kumar, another teacher from the community said that upskilling is the key in today's fast-paced world.

"We as a community can connect virtually with all the teachers across the state which enables us to conduct classes and share information among all teachers to stay updated," he added.

One of the key issues was a shortage of teachers in government schools

The teachers said that a shortage of teaching faculty is a major issue in government schools and that leads to irregular classes and many other problems. There is also a lack of teamwork which results in weak professional development among the teachers in government schools.

The community functions online where they organise stress-management sessions for the teachers as well as sessions and masterclass on how to use new technology better. They also aim to plan on sharing study materials with students all over the state.

Prabhu Gowda, the admin of Shikshana Ilake, said, "Our future plans are to bring all the government school teachers and educationalists onto a single platform and continue our work in reaching as many underprivileged children as possible in a bid to provide quality education to them with the advent of technology post-pandemic."

Rewarding societies working for a greener, cleaner future

Garima Prasher
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To encourage housing societies in the city to pursue environment-friendly measures, the Bangalore Apartment Federation (BAF) is organising a green competition.

The 'Hasiru Apartment Contest' is open to all the apartment complexes in the city that have implemented sustainable and environmentally-friendly practices.

"The competition is for the societies that are not just thinking green but acting upon it as well. The idea behind the contest is to encourage gated communities to pursue positive measures toward the betterment of the environment," said Satish Mallya, Joint Secretary and Governing council member, Bangalore Apartment Federation.

While there are over 1,100 societies under BAF, the contest is open to non-member complexes as well. Those who have implemented sustainable practices impacting the environment positively in the past would be evaluated and awarded on August 20.

Waste segregation being done in a large apartment society (file)

"A weighted evaluation system has been carefully designed by an expert jury from BAF to ensure that all apartments and all initiatives are given a good look and chance to showcase. There are prizes in total worth about Rs three lakhs to be won by the most effective initiatives. Moreover, the contest will also provide an opportunity to the societies to share, learn and further promote environmental consciousness and solutions," said Mallya.

The applications for the contest are being received in three categories based on the size of the apartment complexes and evaluation will be based on measures taken up by the societies in the areas of energy management, rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, sewage treatment plant, water conservation, water metering, solid waste management, garden management.

"We have divided the categories into small (apartments with less than 100 flats), medium (those with 101 to 300 flats) and large (301 flats and above). This is to ensure that all the initiatives, big or small, are given due credit," said another member of BAF.

The information will also be used to showcase the work that apartment complexes in have done towards saving the environment.

"Our efforts have not been recognised yet by the government agencies. For instance, we process wet waste in-house. Despite that, we are paying the service charge of door-to-door collection of Rs 360. Many apartments in the city are treating their wastewater instead of releasing it into the stormwater drain. However, such efforts so far have been overlooked," said Mallya.

By means of his citizen centric programmes, being reason for all-round development of Yalahanka constituency.

Sri S. R. Vishwanath

Honorable President
Bengaluru Development Authority
& popular MLA, Yalahanka constituency.
Member, TTD Board

Hearty wishes on the occasion of his 60th Birthday

We wish him more success
& may he continue to implement the
pro-people programmes to a great extent.

Well-wishers :

Citizens, friends & fans of Yalahanka constituency

What's eating Madiwala underpass? Big vehicles

BBMP plans to install height barriers to prevent any further damage

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KAUSHIK JN

Vehicles exiting the flyover enter the Madiwala underpass at a high speed and damage its roof. Many heavy transport vehicles also get stuck in the underpass as there is no space to go through

The Madiwala Underpass, built in 2010, provides congestion-free passage for thousands of vehicles in the city. But traffic officials now say the underpass is slowly chipping away at the edges. Traffic officials stationed in Madiwala note that the underpass might be at risk of damage in the long run. Officials state that it is constantly getting damaged due to the passage of Heavy Transport Vehicles (HTV) hitting the roof while entering.

Vehicles exiting the flyover enter the underpass at high speed, damaging the underpass. Traffic officials stated that this happens at night, with heavy container vehicles even getting stuck at the underpass.

Traffic officials are asking for a ban on HTV passage in this particular underpass. The underpass bridge carries commuters coming from Hosur Road, Koramangala, BTM Layout and going towards the Electronic City. The damage or disruption to the traffic could lead to major traffic congestion in the city. Sub-inspector Narayanappa C also agreed that vehicles do get stuck in underpasses sometimes.

Being unable to stop the entry of HTVs, traffic cops are asking for the installation of height barriers at the Madiwala underpass.

However, BBMP feels that the issue might only be with older underpasses. BBMP Chief Engineer (Road and Infrastructure), BS Prahalad, said, "Earlier, when the underpasses were constructed the vertical clearance used to be 4.5 metres. The current vertical clearance remains at 5.5 metres. When vehicles more than 4.5 m or exactly 4.5 m enter the underpass, they find themselves stuck. Such vehicles tend to get stuck while entering or exiting. Taking the problem into consideration, BBMP will take up the installation of a height barrier to prevent the entry of vehicles that need more than 4.5 m of vertical clearance. I will instruct my executive engineer to start the process." When asked when BBMP will construct the height barrier, Prahalad added that even though it's not a cost-induced project, it still needs to go through approvals.

> **"When vehicles more than the height of 4.5 m or exactly 4.5 m enter the underpass, they find themselves stuck**
> – BS Prahalad, BBMP Chief Engineer

Rain puts city on slippery slope

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Doctors in the city say there has been a rise in the number of injuries caused by falls this monsoon. Due to the rain, staircases and roads are slippery and combine that with a person in hurry - a mishap is waiting to happen.

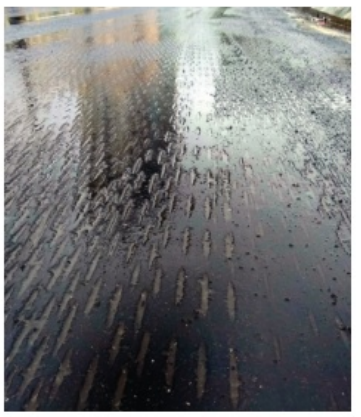
Dr Subodh Mahato, Physio X10 Clinic, told Bangalore Mirror they are getting a few of such cases, of which at least 60% are serious injuries. "Those in the age bracket of 35-55 years are vulnerable as if they can injure their back or spine in the impact of the fall," he said.

He said that those above 40 years should take extra care as their bones are weaker than that of younger people.

Sreeja M, a resident of Jalahalli, is a victim of one such fall. "I was running late for my office, and I was hurrying down the stairs of my apartment complex. I slipped and fell the entire flight of stairs. I fell on my wrist and the pain was too much to handle. When I went to the doctor, he told me that I had a hairline crack on my wrist and advised me to stay at home."

Boon for auto mechanics

Rain is also playing havoc with vehicle owners in the city, as breakdowns have become common. Hemanth Kumar, a rider, said he was coming back from office when it was raining and his bike stopped in the middle of the road. "When I took it to the mechanic, he said it was because water had entered the engine. I had spent much money before too and now again it stopped working."
Abhijith Anirudh, another rider, said that potholes make matters even worse. "I was going to MG road and did not realise that there was a pothole as the road was water-logged. My scooter fell and refused to start so I had to take it to a mechanic." For mechanics, it is the busiest season of the year. Mihir, a mechanic in Hesaraghatta, said, "This monsoon, I am seeing at least seven to eight customers. Most of their vehicles are breaking down due to water entering the vehicles or due to a fall." Rahim, another auto mechanic, said he has had to hire extra help to deal with the increase in customers.



Rohith Kumar, a Rajajinagar resident, said he fell as he was getting out of the garage after parking his bike. "There was a lot of water right in front of the house, so I slipped and fell flat on my back. The doctor said that my bones were impacted because of the fall and I was given asked to rest for at least 10 days."

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Flakey work

Vasanth Nagar

Vasanth Nagar Race Course Road opposite Bangalore Turf Club has caved in and is a threat to motorists.

Broken ramp

Sivananda Circle

The ramp near the Sivananda steel bridge needs to be repaired.

No parking here

Crescent Road

An asphalt paver is parked in a residential area in Vasanth Nagar. It is also a no-parking zone. The contractor must remove it immediately.

Visa troubles loom large for Canada-bound students

For students who wish to pursue their higher education abroad, Canada is one of the most sought-after countries globally. But now, that is no longer the case as students say their visas are not getting approved and some of them are even getting delayed.

The students -- despite having a good academic profile -- are not able to get their visas approved. Roshni Agarwal, a postgraduate in chemistry, said that since her school days she never let her marks fall. Even in her college she was among the top students; despite that her visa has been rejected. She said, "I even paid proper attention to my extra curriculum activities. Despite all the efforts, my visa was rejected. I am quite disappointed; however, I am planning to apply for the visa once more."

For some of the students, the visas have been rejected more than once. This has led to them giving up on their plans of studying abroad. Mikhil M, an undergraduate in physiotherapy, said that despite maintain a good profile his visa has been rejected twice. This is very disheartening. Every time it takes so much of time and effort to get all the documents ready and visit the office.

"So, now I have given up my plans of studying in Canada. I will continue with my education in Bengaluru."

The consultants say that the rejection rate of visas have been increased because the number of applications to Canada have been increased as well. A consultant from DM consultancies, said, "As many as 40-50 per cent of the student visas to Canada have been rejected. This is because the number of applications has also been increased. There are limited seats in the colleges in Canada and since so many students are applying for the seats, they are only taking limited students and hence, visas are getting rejected."

"There are limited seats in Canada's colleges which is why the visa applications are getting rejected now – A consultant

He added that now that colleges have opened up again, applications have increased as well. However, in the coming year or two, situation will improve.

Shamsiya Khanam, another visa consultant, said, "We have quite a few numbers of visas that have been delayed. Almost 60 per cent of the visas are still awaiting confirmation. Usually, it takes around 20 days and sometimes even two weeks to get approved. However, now it has been more than a month since the visas are yet to be approved."

—Shreyashi Mukherjee

Elephant-proof: Tusker tethers to be tested soon

Researchers from IISc will evaluate steel rope barricades at Nagarhole and Bandipur Tiger Reserves on the basis of cost and strength

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Ministers inspect the newly installed steel ropes at Nagarhole Tiger Reserve

The steel rope barricades installed on a pilot basis in Nagarhole and Bandipur Tiger Reserves will soon be inspected by IISc researchers, according to the Karnataka Forest Department.

Currently, the steel rope barricades have been put in place across 1.5 km in Bandipur Tiger Reserve and 4.5 km in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. The IISc team recently visited the Bandipur site to take stock of the situation.

"We have done preliminary visits to the Bandipur site but instrumenting and evaluation of the ropes have not begun yet. These modalities still need to be discussed. The idea is to see if the mechanism is both safe for the animal and effective in saving the crops. It also has to be cost-effective," said Dr Ananth Ramaswamy, HoD, Civil Engineering Department, IISc.

Bangalore Mirror

Time to rope in jumbo control

Forest department will test steel wire rope to prevent elephants from entering farmlands

BM's report on June 1 spoke about the steel ropes being installed to keep out the jumbos

The team will soon instrument the system and will try to calibrate what kind of forces are generated when the jumbos put pressure on the ropes.

The researchers will analyse the strength of the system and will also look into ways to strengthen it without going overboard.

Officials say that the idea is to understand how much force the steel barriers can withstand and compare it to the strength parameters of the rail barricade.

"The steel rope barricades are much more affordable compared to the rail barricades. While the rail barricade would cost us roughly about Rs 1.3 to 1.5 crore per kilometre, the steel rope barricade will be only around Rs 60 lakh per kilometre. The IISc team will conduct the technical feasibility report, which will help us understand the locations of the steel rope barricades," said Mahesh Kumar, director of Nagarhole Tiger Reserve.

The Forest Department came up with steel ropes after trying out trenches, railway barricades, solar-power tentacle fences

The currently installed barricades are being monitored using camera traps to record their performance under real-world conditions. Kumar Pushkar, APCCF (wildlife), Karnataka Forest Department said that structural changes might be made depending on the outcome of the analysis taken up by the IISc team.

"The spot inspection has already happened and now the researchers will evaluate the structure and its strength. Depending on their comments and feedback, structural changes might be made. We have installed the steel rope barricade across 1.5 km in Bandipur Tiger Reserve and 4.5 km in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve. We are monitoring it through the camera traps," said Pushkar.

The Forest Department has come up with this ploy after trying out elephant-proof trenches, railway barricades, and solar power tentacle fences, to mention some of the techniques to keep the jumbos out of the farmlands.

The steel rope fencing method has already been tried and tested by the Hosur forest division in Tamil Nadu. The model, which includes steel The Veeranahosalli range in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve is a high conflict zone and has witnessed intense human-elephant conflict situations in the past.

The feedback from the IISc team is expected to optimise the cost, quality and life of the fence.

Working in the UK, now simpler for you

The recent MoU signed between India and the UK to recognise each other's higher education qualifications is a step ahead for students who have degrees from foreign institutions.

Barbara Wickham OBE, Director India, British Council, said in a press release, "The agreement of the mutual recognition of academic qualifications is a significant moment of celebration in the India-UK education relationship and will benefit thousands of young people and talented students in both countries."

Megha KN, 22, a resident of JP Nagar, is currently working in Bengaluru. Megha's dream was to go to Edinburgh University for higher studies but she could never fulfill it. "Earlier, the rules mandated that if you go for higher studies in the UK, you will have to get a job in the UK only. India did not recognise degrees from English universities. One of my friends did his MBA from the UK and had to return to India as his student visa expired before he could get a job. He did not get a job in India either because very few private companies recognised his degree or gave preference to other employees. It was a waste."

Indo-UK pact will enable joint education, research, innovation initiatives

Now, students will be able to get a job in the UK with an Indian degree and vice versa.

Pransukh Rao, 25, also thought this was an excellent move for the youth. "I hope this increases the job opportunities for youngsters in India. I hope the UK also eases the visa restrictions for Indian citizens and allow visa on arrival to make the process easier. Currently, the process is too time-consuming and complicated."

The MoU was signed between the two countries on Thursday, July 21.

According to a statement released by the government of the UK, this mutual pact will enable joint education, research, and innovation initiatives to explore solutions for shared global challenges.

Vivienne Stern MBE, Chief Executive, Universities UK International, said in a statement that this was a historic agreement which has been many years in the making.

"The recognition of UK Masters' is a particularly important development. It means that Indian graduates from the UK's outstanding universities will receive formal recognition of their outstanding achievements and full access to jobs in the public sector in India," she added.

However, professional degrees in engineering, medicine, architecture, and pharmacy are still not recognised in the two countries.

—Saumyangi Yadav

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

SNOOZE OFF!

I visited famous Nagerhole Tiger Reserve, Kabini for the first time and got this candid shot of a leopard napping away.

The picture was clicked by reader **Shweta Khandelwal**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

When death came to highlight pothole perils

Artiste dressed as Hindu god of death along with residents of Kanakapura Road try to raise awareness about potholes

The residents of Kanakapura Road recently took to a unique method to protest against potholes in the neighbourhood's roads. With an artiste dressed as 'Yama Dharmaraja' (god of death in Hindu mythology), pointing to the potholed road, residents tried to point out the countless potholes that make up the poor road condition of Anjanapura double road connecting Kanakapura and Bannerghatta (13-km stretch under Bengaluru South Assembly constituency).

Abdul Aleem, President, Changemakers of Kanakapura Road said, "We choose Yama Dharmaraja theme because this stretch of road is the best example of a real Naraka Darshana to the commuters. This stretch of road has been in horrible condition for more than a decade. Not only this but all Anjanapura roads are worse. Last time, we did a protest which yielded results but only two kilometres of road was asphalted even though Rs 25 crore was released for 13-km stretch of the road."

According to him, even after so much naming and shaming, authorities haven't woken up and as a result, the residents continue to suffer. Recently, an ambulance driver refused to come to an apartment and the resident had to be carried in the car. The resident passed away in the hospital. "I am suggesting the BDA and the MLA to asphalt this road immediately and solve the commuting issues. If this is not done immediately, we have to intensify our protest."

Sreepathy, Secretary, Royal Park Residency Welfare Association, Avalahalli- Anjanapura said, "Lack of coordination between various departments and corrupt practices are the reason for such a mess. Residents are the victims of bad road related deaths and injuries.

Cabs and ambulances refuse to enter the area due to the terrible condition of the road, say residents

An artiste dressed as Yama Dharmaraja walks near the worn-out Anjanapura Double Road

Hope BDA, BBMP and State Government will ensure safe roads to commuters."

Pradeep Nair, President, DS Max Stone Hill Apartment added that once they step out, they are not sure whether they will return safely. There are neither proper roads nor lights. "We have a fire station next to our apartment but nowadays they are also not able to operate as roads are bad. We have spoken to BBMP, BDA, and BWSSB but without any luck. We need urgent support as we have many aged people and also pregnant women."

— Prakash VL

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mythic Society library is a name very familiar with bibliophiles of Bengaluru. With a collection of about 46,000 books, this old-school library is well known among scholars and is a pioneering institution of Indic studies in South India. The Mythic Society was founded in 1909 by some European enthusiasts in Bangalore. FH Richards, who was the Collector of the Bangalore Cantonment District took the initiative and a meeting was held in his residence on 5th May, 1909 and 17 members joined this new academic 'club' with Dr Traverse, the first Director of the Indian Institute of Science, being its first President too.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

What do you think is the big reason that the government is unable to focus on providing good infrastructure in the city?

Simran Dua, Student
The plans cannot get imposed at ground level due to misinterpretation of the plans to the public which leads to protests at all the stages of proposed projects which drifts the focus.

Aditya Kamble, Student
The government is not providing good infrastructure because of the poor economy and poor government structure. Despite gradual acceptance in the past decade that infrastructure is vital to economic growth, debate of spending remains amorphous and simplistic.

Vasu Bajaj, BM Reader
The Government is not able to provide good Infrastructure to Bangalore as it doesn't have proper planning and the Will to do it.

Eshaa Chandgothia, Student
The government is more occupied with political agendas and political rallies, infrastructure was never a concern and i don't think it will ever be. They have other priorities.

Utkarsh Mahajan, BM Reader
The issue is not a lack of resources for building infrastructure, but rather a lack of the proper institutional systems and power structures to expedite and effectively complete such projects.

Vinayak Vijaywargia , Artist and Musician
I think that the major reason for this is overpopulation and thankless people who don't take care of public infrastructure and damage it.

SPEAK TO US

How would you describe medical facilities available in the city?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

THE SUNDAY READ

The accordionist

Musician who is among the few to play novel instrument tells us about his enchanting journey

| R Prashanth Vidyasagar
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PIC COURTESY: ARJUN PRAKASH

MB Prakash has been playing the accordion professionally for 17 years now

It is quite rare to come across someone with an enchanting life story that revolves around music. Making it even rarer is the fact that the person plays a novel instrument and has done so professionally for over 17 years. We spoke to the accordion legend MB Prakash (73), one of the few in the city and country about his amazing journey, being self-taught, and his tryst with the accordion. Excerpts from the interview.

The beauty of Basavanagudi

I lived in Ranga Rao Road, Shankarapura at Basavanagudi that had four accordionists just in the first section of that road. Hearing them play as I returned from school was a common occurrence. More so during my summer vacations, when we would return home late after playing. Late in those days means 7 pm unlike today. Bangalore was quiet and the weather pleasant, so windows were usually kept open. While walking back home, I could hear people play and some even played near their windows. The music and the instrument left a great impression on me and this could be considered the starting point of it all.

A Rs-3,000 accordion when petrol cost 70 paise!

I started playing harmonica and due to my migraine, I was asked to give it up so my father asked me if I was interested in playing anything else, that is when I picked accordion. My father wasn't happy with the price and make of accordions here.

That is when I learnt that my father's cousin was coming from England. I used the cheapest means of communication called Aerogram (would take nine days for a mail to be sent) back then and wrote to the only German company I knew of who were making accordions, they in turn handed this over to their counterpart in England. After asking me for some details they suggested an accordion that was suitable for a beginner like me. So, my uncle got it to India. This is how I came to own my first accordion when I was about 16. My parents never told me how much it cost; I'm guessing it could have been around Rs 3,000 all inclusive. Just to put things into perspective, petrol was about 70 paise a litre then.

Rs 10 per programme

I couldn't find a teacher to teach me the accordion. My father got me a piano tutor, through whom I learnt the basics of musical notations (from a book as well), based on that I learnt to read music and play. I represented my college later in fests and emerged as a shield winner. Back then there was something called the youth programme on All India Radio (AIR), I wanted to play for them. I requested an audition asking them to let me only if they deemed me fit to play in their programme.

A month later I got a letter from AIR on behalf of the President of India asking me to play. I played about 10 programmes and for each, I was paid Rs 10 on an RBI cheque.

The first show

Post that I had to take up a profession because of which I couldn't play for about eight years. Somewhere around this time interest shifted to piano but lots of my friends put their children in my tutelage to learn piano. Teaching took away all my time and I had to dismantle the piano. But things got me back to accordion. I got a request from Bangalore School of Music to play for French Bastille day at Alliance, so I asked a friend of mine to join me and that was my first arrangement. That was my first exposure and experience. And then I decided that once a year I have to play to keep this going at any kind of event. One such programme actually led to the formation of the accordion band Tremolos (Bangalore) with Benne Ravi and Rajeev Das Mohopatra, the only accordion trio in India. Our common interest was European folk dances, we didn't venture to play Hindi music etc. I wanted to play the music that was meant for the instrument rather than play what I wanted to.

Hit by reality

Dev used to play at the erstwhile hotel Ashoka in a band, they wouldn't always be employed and would run short of funds etc. Being a friend, I supported him but things started falling apart from him, he finally found a gig in Mangalore. He asked for bus charge to go there on a Saturday morning and left. But the bus he was travelling was involved in a tragic accident where about 40 people passed away. This incident affected me a lot.

The leap of faith

My children were still studying, uncertain income and all that was going on in my mind. I was a Tribologist and would make cutting oils.

That is when the chance to play at the Sunday Brunch in Windsor came up. I took a leap of faith and took it up. The brunch became popular and Saturday brunch was introduced. For all the foreigners there this became a nostalgic sound. The gig was a successful one and they asked me to play for another day. The VP of the then Taj Regency (now Vivanta) heard me and wanted to play there, so I ended up playing regularly. But the gig at Taj stopped later owing to the dwindling crowd, courtesy recession. In 2017 there was an accordion competition in France. They wanted me to represent India and be part of the Jury for the international bench. For the first time ever in the history of the festival Indians took part.

From an era when walking home included passing by at least 4 accordionists in a lane in Basavanagudi, to a time when the instrument is played just by a few in the city and even the country —Prakash has seen it all

What instrument is that?

I had to be self-sufficient in maintaining the accordion and fine tuning it. Instruments over time start giving trouble too; the standard accordion I carry uses 450 reeds and weighs 11 kilos. I don't get some material and some of it is very expensive. I had no one to help me out either. So, I had to make my own substitutions. Legendary artist José Feliciano, who I had a chance to play for, recognised this. He even sang as I played, when I later went to thank him, he reached out to me (he was visually challenged) and asked me what instrument do you play? I told him it was the accordion and he said it was just wonderful.

The pandemic pause

I kept myself busy by restoring my accordions and practising my craft. Many artists faced challenging times during this period. Artists have no government support, PF or other benefits. The day you play, you earn. I was lucky enough as I had support from my family and my kids are grown up now. I recently played at the Windsor as part of their 40th year celebrations and hope to get back to playing regularly soon.

"Instruments over time start giving trouble too; the standard accordion I carry uses 450 reeds and weighs 11 kilos. I don't get some material and some of it is very expensive. I had no one to help me out either –MB Prakash, musician

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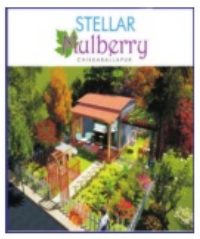

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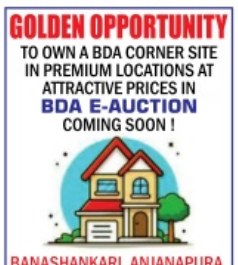
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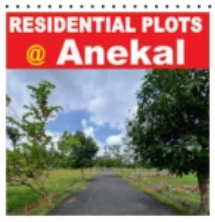

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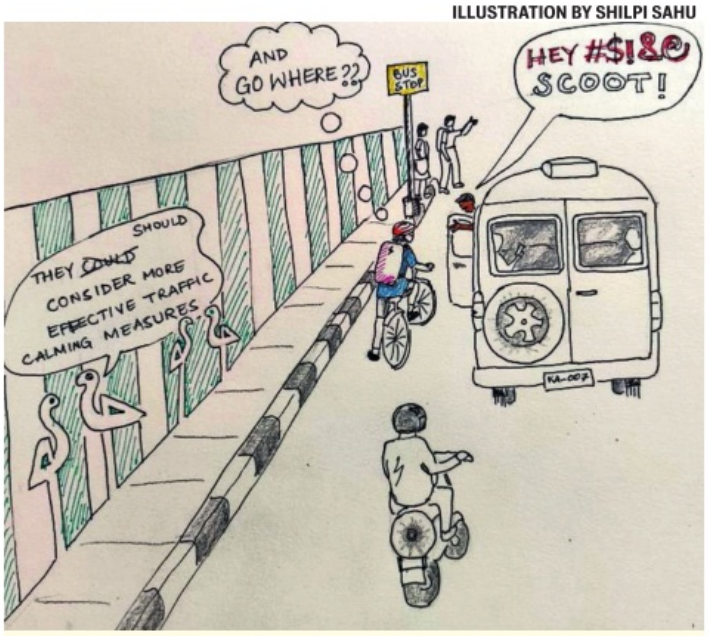
CHANGE OF NAME

I, PARIMALAVALLI SRINIVASAGOPALAN D/o Srinivasagopalan Ramanujam residing at No.78, 17th Cross, East Park Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560055 have changed my name to PARIMALA SRINIVASAGOPALAN vide affidavit dated 23.07.2022 sworn before notary B.V Nagabhushana, Bangalore

I, Koushalya.I.Guledagudda W/o Ravikumar Patil R/a No. 125, 1st Main, 3rd Cross, Krishnainapalya, Indira Nagar Post, Bangalore-560038, have changed my name to Koushalya Ravikumar Patil vide affidavit dt 23.07.22, before Notary B.M.Chandrashekar

Sketches to reclaim B'luru's public spaces

ILLUSTRATION BY SHILPI SAHU



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

believes imagery speaks louder than words. "I could always use memes. But then, I find drawing much more satisfying as I can depict exactly what I want to convey. It is also an outlet for my artistic self," she told BM.

Sahu spontaneously decided to draw about cycling one day. "I was cycling one day and an incident occurred. I came back and wanted to tell people. But then I decided to illustrate rather than write about it. People really liked it, and the work got much more attention than usual. Bengaluru bicycle mayor Sathya Sankaran suggested that I do a weekly comic strip. So, I decided to continue with one or two cartoons a week. I realised that this is a space that has no representation in the cartoon world. As a regular commuter cyclist in a city with major traffic issues and someone who is comfortable with drawing (may not be the best artist), I am probably in the best position to draw such instances," she said.

Although the country has more than 50% of the population owning cycles, Bengaluru makes no space for them. "They are not welcome on roads. They are not welcome on footpaths. They are certainly not welcome at many government and private workplaces, where cycling attire is considered unacceptable and cycling considered below status.

A cyclist is the most forgotten person on the road, by the government, town planning and motorised vehicle drivers. I draw using pencil, pen, sketch-pens on paper. I have been commuting by cycle to my workplace for more than a decade. So, I have firsthand riding experience. I draw my inspiration from my cycling experiences while commuting to work", she added.

"ORR cycle lane bollards are being systematically uprooted by BMRCL; considered a nuisance by motorists, bollards are often run over by vehicles. Traffic is worst on stretches where there are no cycle lane bollards left
— Shilpi Sahu, techie, cyclist

Sahu spends an hour per week on her cartoons: "I usually make the drawings on a Friday or during the weekend. These are very simple drawings. I usually have a list of ideas. But most of the drawings are spontaneous and based on my recent experiences. In fact, as a kid, I used to like drawing live portraits of people and sketches of places and things. I didn't learn art formally, but took it up just to pass time during holidays. Now, I am drawing to create awareness."

According to Sahu, many motorists (including autos) think the cycle lane is for them. "Even when they realise the lane is for cyclists, they violate the rules. Often, they bully the cyclists, sometimes physically. I refuse to be bullied and there are many like me who are risking their safety on the roads, even on cycle lanes that are meant to be safe for cyclists. I think we should reclaim public spaces by asserting our presence."

Kids in the 'woods'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

under the initiative. The idea was to catch them young and sow the seed of conservation. However, students from these schools have not been visiting us for the last couple of years due to transportation constraints. It is mostly the private educational institutions that are coming in with students. We have had over one thousand students visiting the campus under the programme this year. The number of requests has gone up after the campuses have started in-person classes post pandemic," said Shivakumar CM, extension division, IWST.

However, it is not just the conservation aspect that is drawing educational institutions to IWST. The students of Nitte School of Fashion Technology and Interior Design have been going on educational trips to the campus for over five years now.

"The trip is available for the students of interior design and fashion design courses as wood is an integral aspect of both these courses. Under the fashion design course, students are taught methods to convert softwood into wooden accessories such as bangles, earrings, etc. In the interior design programme, they learn about wooden furniture. A visit to the campus and the museum gives them insights into various aspects of wood such as history, anatomy, processing, products, problems, solutions and much more. It is experiential learning," said Dr Sandhya Ravi, principal, Nitte School of Fashion Technology and Interior Design.

The idea behind the programme is to educate students about wood science, the museum and teach them skills about judicious use of wood. The students also participate in a nature walk in the 25-acre campus and get to see and learn about rare trees, birds, flowers, etc.

"The programme envisages inculcating a sense of desire and duty to be actively involved in the protection of forests and environment, judicious use of natural resources and development of scientific temperament. They also visit the on-campus plant nursery and greenhouse and get to learn about nursery practices, cultivation methods, protection of trees and wood, wood seasoning, preservation, properties and uses, wood modification and wood polymer composites," said Shivakumar.

Students are taken to facilities like tissue culture lab, molecular lab, plant nursery, Xylarium, wood workshops and the Advance Woodworking Training Centre.

Mysuru all set to hear story of river Cauvery

Art gallery dedicated to river will display its importance in South India

Mysuru is gearing up for another tourist attraction that narrates the story of the Cauvery River. An art gallery dedicated to the river called "The Cauvery Art Gallery" will be inaugurated soon. It reflects the importance of the river, the lifeline of South India, and the important places on its path. The art gallery was completed years ago, but couldn't be inaugurated due to some issues. It was scheduled to be inaugurated in the year 2016.

On July 13, Minister of Tourism, Ecology and Environment Anand Singh and District Incharge Minister ST Somashekhar will inaugurate the art gallery.

After the inauguration, the art gallery will be open to the public. The National Academy of Science India (NASI), which developed the "Ganga" art gallery in Allahabad and "Brahmaputra" in Guwahati, developed this art gallery. It is the first art gallery dedicated to a river in South India.

The gallery is built on Karnataka Exhibition Authority's building spread across 19,000 sq ft at the cost of Rs 3.5 crore. On the ground floor, there are details about the river.

The Cauvery Art Gallery in Mysuru was ready years ago, but it could not be inaugurated due to myriad reasons

The art gallery is built in partnership with the National Academy of Science India and the Karnataka Knowledge Commission. Map of the river from Talacauvery to Poompuhar, tourist centres, and cultural details are exhibited in the gallery.

The entrance fee is Rs 20 for adults and Rs 10 for children, and it is open to tourists from 10 am to 5 pm. The art gallery also has a 3D video show that narrates the importance of the river, its tributaries, dams, and other details. Karnataka Exhibition Authority President A Hemanth Kumar Gowda said, "The Cauvery Art Gallery which was built for tourists, is opening now. The tourists who visit the Zoo and the palace can also visit the gallery on the exhibition ground."

— Prakash VL

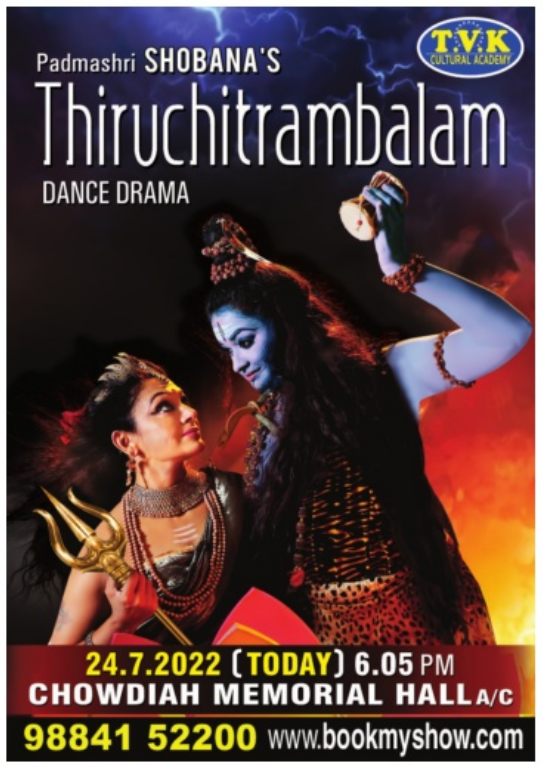
Kabini Garden work to begin soon

Meanwhile, the Kabini Reservoir area will have a garden to attract tourists. The work is likely to start this year. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who recently offered Bagina at the reservoir said that the state government is yet to decide whether the Kabini Gardens near the reservoir should be developed by the government on a public-private partnership model.

A final decision would be taken soon and work would be launched. CM also said that a special programme has been formulated for the all-around development of HD Kote Taluk in the Mysuru district.

"Construction of classrooms and upgradation of Primary Health Centres to Community Health Centres has been taken up. Grants have been provided for roads and construction of houses", Bommai said.

Works for Suriya PG 16
'National Award motivates me to work harder, walk my talk'



Missing pet parrot found; elated family gives ₹85k instead of ₹50k reward

A missing pet parrot, whose owners had announced a Rs 50,000 reward for whoever finds it, has been found after a week. Elated family members rewarded Rs 85,000 instead of Rs 50,000 announced earlier to the person who found 'Rustama', the African grey parrot.

Earlier, the owners had printed 30,000 handbills and started searching in residential areas as their pet went missing in Tumakuru city of Karnataka.

Srinivas, a resident of Bandepalya in Tumakuru had noticed the rare parrot in front of his residence and kept it safely with him.

Srinivas came to know about the search for the bird and reward by neighbours.

Srinivas then called the owners and returned the parrot to them. The owners had also launched a search with another bird, thinking that 'Rustuma' will respond to its partner bird.

Exotic birds such as African Grey Parrots are often at risk of being stolen

One of the two African grey parrots that the family in Tumakuru have, went missing

According to Ravi, an animal activist and the owner of the bird, their family nursed two African grey parrots at their home in Jayanagar locality of Tumakuru district. One of the parrots, 'Rustuma' had gone missing on July 16. The family celebrates the birthday of the two parrots every year with pomp and show. The bonding of the family with the parrot and their endeavour to discover and get back the lost parrot has moved people and animal lovers in the state.

— IANS

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IN IMAX AT

PVR CINEMAS {Forum Mall, Kormangala, 9:45 a.m., 1:05, 4:25, 10:30 p.m. | VR Mall, 9:45, 1:05, 4:25, 10:30 p.m. | Vegacity Mall, 12:35, 6:40, 9:15, 10:00 p.m.} | INOX {Mantri Square Mall, Malleshwaram, 9:20 a.m., 12:35, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. | RMZ Yelahanka, 9:10 a.m., 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {Shantiniketan, 9:20, 12:40, 6:50, 10:00 p.m.}.

PVR CINEMAS {Phoenix Market City, 9:10, 12:05, 12:30, 3:50, 6:10, 7:10, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | Forum Mall, Kormangala, 9:45, 12:00, 2:40, 3:20, 6:40, 7:10, 9:35, 10:00 p.m. | Orion Mall, 9:10, 9:45, 12:30, 1:05, 3:00, 3:35, 3:50, 6:10, 7:10, 9:45, 10:30 p.m. | Orion Uptown Mall, 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. | MSR Regalia Mall, 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 6:10, 7:10, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | Spirit Mall, 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:00, 10:30 p.m. | VR Mall, 9:30, 11:45, 3:05, 6:25, 6:55, 9:45 p.m. | Vaishnavi Saphire Mall, 9:00, 11:30, 12:20, 3:40, 6:10, 7:00, 10:20 p.m. | Vegacity Mall, 9:10, 12:30, 3:15, 3:35, 3:50, 7:10, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | The Cinema @ GT Mall, Magadi Road, 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. | The Aura, Whitefield, 10:05, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m.} | INOX {Garuda Mall, 9:20, 10:10, 12:30, 7:10, 10:00, 10:30 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 11:45, 3:00, 6:15, 9:30 p.m. | Swagath Mall, 9:20, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | Mantri Mall, 11:45, 5:15, 6:15, 8:30, 9:30 p.m. | Central Mall, 9:00, 9:50, 12:10, 3:30, 6:45, 9:00, 10:00 p.m. | Lido, 9:10, 10:00, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 9:40, 10:30 p.m. | Brookefield Mall, 9:00, 10:00, 12:35, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. | Forum Value Mall, 10:05, 11:45, 2:15, 6:20, 9:40 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. | SBR Horizon, Seegehalli, 11:30, 2:50, 9:30 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. | Garuda Yelahanka, 9:10, 10:00, 12:30, 3:50, 6:15, 7:10, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | RMZ Yelahanka, 10:15 a.m., 1:30 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:30 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {Royal Meenakshi Mall, 9:45, 11:00, 1:05, 2:20, 5:40, 6:35, 9:00, 9:55 p.m. | ETA Mall, Binny Mill, 9:00, 11:00, 12:20, 2:20, 3:40, 5:40, 7:00, 9:00, 10:20 p.m. | East Orion Mall, 9:00, 10:30, 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20 p.m. | Shantiniketan, 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:00, 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20 p.m. | SJR Spectrum Mall, 9:00, 10:20, 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 9:25, 10:20 p.m. | Sigma Mall, 9:00, 12:20, 3:40, 7:00, 10:20 p.m.} | ROCKLINE MALL {Jalahalli Cross, 10:30, 1:20, 3:45, 6:35, 9:15 p.m.} | GOPALAN {Innovation Mall, 10:00, 2:45, 7:00 p.m. | Arch Mall, 11:00, 4:45, 10:00 p.m. | Signature Mall, 12:15, 4:30, 9:30 p.m. | Grand Mall, 10:15, 1:45, 6:15, 9:30 p.m. | Legacy Mall, 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:45 p.m.} | KINO CINEMAS {Seegehalli Road, 9:15, 12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55 p.m.} | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX {Marathahalli, 10:00, 11:30, 1:00, 4:15, 5:30, 6:30, 9:45 p.m.} | MUKTA A2 CINEMAS {Uttarahalli, 10:30, 1:35, 4:45, 10:30 p.m.} | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG {MG Road, 10:45, 1:45, 7:20, 10:20 p.m.} | BALAJI {Chikhalsandra} | SIDDESHWARA {J. P. Nagar, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50 p.m.} | SRI RAMA CHITRA MANDIRA {Ramnagara, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | MOHAN {Sunkadkate, 10:15, 1:15, 10:00 p.m.} | VIJAYALAKSHMI {Garudacharpalya, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 10:00 p.m.} | MAHADESHWARA {Kadrenahalli, 1:30, 6:45 p.m.} | ANAND {D. J. Halli, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 10:00 p.m.} | RADHAKRISHNA {Mattadahalli, 6:15, 9:30 p.m.} | GURUSHREE {Mandya, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 10:00 p.m.} | VAIBHAV {Sanjay Nagar, 10:30, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m.} | ABHINAY {K. G. Road, 10:30, 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00 p.m.} | CAUVERY {Sankey Road, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30 p.m.} | LAKSHMI {Tavarekere, 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m.} | VICTORY CINEMA {Kamakshipalya, 10:00, 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30 p.m.} | MANASA {Konnankunte} | VEERESHA {Magadi Road, 10:00 p.m.} | BRUNDHA {Hongasandra, 10:00, 4:00, 10:00 p.m.} | LAKSHMI {Ram Murthy Nagar, 11:00, 2:30, 5:30, 10:00 p.m.} | VEERABADRESHWARA {Kamalanagar, 10:00 p.m.} | NAVRANG {10:00 p.m.} | PRASANNA THEATRE {Magadi Road, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | MUKUNDA {6:00, 9:00 p.m.} | RADHAKRISHNA {Mattadahalli, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | VINAYAKA {D. J. Halli, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | URVASHI {10:30, 2:15, 6:00, 9:45 p.m.} | SHOBHA {Bapujinagar, 11:00, 2:30, 5:30, 10:00 p.m.} | WOODLANDS {Myosre, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 10:00 p.m.} | CINEPOLIS {City Centre Mall, Mangalore, 9:45, 10:45, 1:05, 7:15, 9:30, 10:35 p.m.} | PVR CINEMAS {Fiza Mall, Mangalore, 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m. | Forum Mall, Mysore, 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:00, 10:30 p.m. | Garuda Mall, Mysore, 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m.} | INOX {Central, Manipal, 9:10, 10:00, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 9:40, 10:30 p.m. | Satyam Mall, Mysore, 10:10, 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 9:30, 10:30 p.m. | S Mall, Tumkur, 10:20, 11:30, 6:10, 9:30, 10:00 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 9:10, 12:30, 3:50, 7:10, 10:30 p.m.} | BHARATH CINEMAS {Mangalore, 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 p.m. | Manipal, 9:00, 10:15 p.m., IN DOLBY ATMOS:- 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15 p.m. | Shivamoga | Kundapura} | MANJUNATHA {Shivamoga, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | DRC CINEMAS {Mysore, 10:30, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00 p.m.} | MOVIETIME {Davangere, 10:15, 1:20, 4:25, 7:30 p.m.} | VASANTA {Davangere, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 10:00 p.m.} | SRILEKHA {Chickmagalur, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 10:00 p.m.} | CINE GALAXY {Suratkal, 2:00, 5:00, 8:00, 9:45, 11:45 p.m.} | SHIVA THEATRE {Bellary, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00 10:00 p.m.} | JAI BHARATH {Tumkur, 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.} | SRI KRISHNA {Tumkur, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | SARASWATHI {Hospet, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | ARUNA {Puttur, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | COORG CINEPLEX {Kushalnagar, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 p.m.} | RADHIKA Mulbagal, 9:00 p.m.}.

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WHO declares monkeypox global emergency

Outbreak is now in 70+ countries; UN agency makes announcement despite lack of consensus

#London

The chief of the World Health Organisation said the expanding monkeypox outbreak in more than 70 countries is an "extraordinary" situation that now qualifies as a global emergency, a declaration Saturday that could spur further investment in treating the once-rare disease and worsen the scramble for scarce vaccines.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus made the decision to issue the declaration despite a lack of consensus among members of WHO's emergency committee. It was the first time the chief of the UN health agency has taken such an action.

"We have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly through new modes of transmission about which we understand too little and which meets the criteria in the international health regulations," Tedros said.

"I know this has not been an easy or straightforward process and that there are divergent views among the members" of the committee, he added.

Although monkeypox has been established in parts of central and west Africa for decades, it was not known to spark large outbreaks beyond the continent or to spread widely among people until May, when authorities detected dozens of epidemics in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

Declaring a global emergency means the monkeypox outbreak is an "extraordinary event" that could spill over into more countries and requires a coordinated global response. WHO previously declared emergencies for public health crises such as the covid pandemic, the 2014 West African Ebola outbreak, the Zika virus in Latin America in 2016 and the ongoing effort to eradicate polio. The emergency declaration serves as a plea to draw more global resources and attention to an outbreak.

International passengers being screened for monkeypox at the airport in Chennai, following the detection of cases in Kerala

Last month, WHO's expert committee said the worldwide monkeypox outbreak did not yet amount to an international emergency, but the panel convened this week to reevaluate the situation.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 16,000 cases of monkeypox have been reported in 74 countries since about May. To date, monkeypox deaths have only been reported in Africa, where a more dangerous version of the virus is spreading, mainly in Nigeria and Congo.

In Africa, monkeypox mainly spreads to people from infected wild animals like rodents, in limited outbreaks that typically have not crossed borders. In Europe, North America and elsewhere, however, monkeypox is spreading among people with no links to animals or recent travel to Africa.

WHO's top monkeypox expert, Dr. Rosamund Lewis, said this week that 99% of all the monkeypox cases beyond Africa were in men and that of those, 98% involved men who have sex with men. Experts suspect the monkeypox outbreaks in Europe and North America were spread via sex at two raves in Belgium and Spain.

"Although I am declaring a public health emergency of international concern for the moment, this is an outbreak that is concentrated among men who have sex with men, especially those with multiple sexual partners," Tedros said. "That means that this is an outbreak that can be stopped with the right strategies in the right groups."

WHO's emergencies chief, Michael Ryan, explained what preceded the director-general's decision.

"(Tedros) found that the committee did not reach a consensus, despite having a very open, very useful, very considered debate on the issues, and that since he's not going against the committee, what he's recognising is that there are deep complexities in this issue," Ryan said. "There are uncertainties on all sides. And he's reflecting that uncertainty and his determination of the event" to be a global emergency.

Before the announcement, Michael Head, a research fellow in global health at Southampton University, said it was surprising WHO hadn't already declared monkeypox a global emergency, explaining that the conditions were arguably met weeks ago. **AP**

Isha Sharma is Karnataka's first woman International Master

Karnataka's Isha Sharma achieved her maiden International Master and Woman Grandmaster Norm in the Slovakia Open Piestany 2022 tournament that concluded very recently.

Isha, who trains under FIDE Trainer K Visweswaran, scored 5/9 with an ELO rating performance of 2453 thus gaining 48.8 rating points in the process. In the third round Isha scored a sparkling win over Polish legend Grandmaster Krasenkow Michal (2569), her best win thus far.

Isha, a final year Economics student of Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Trust, Ujire near Dharmasthala is the first Woman International Master from Karnataka. On the way to IM Norm Isha defeated higher rated Slovakian IM Neugebauer Martin (2528) and drew with IM Stefansson Vignir Vatnar from Iceland.

Isha, is an Asian Schools U-15 Bronze medallist in 2015 and won the Asian Junior Girls rapid championship held in Iran in 2017, Continuing her title pursuit, Isha is presently playing the Vezerkepzo closed GM tournament in Budapest, Hungary. She is accompanied by her mother Dr. Vidya Abhay.

Earlier she was awarded WCM by FIDE in the year 2015. In 2020, she achieved the title of WIM. She is also a winner of the National Under-19 bronze in 2017.

Among her other achievements, Isha secured the gold medal in the 2019 Hofheimer Fruehjahr Open, an International chess tournament held at Germany and secured fourth place in the 2019 Aeroflot open International chess tournament. She also participated in the 26th Abu Dhabi International Masters chess and the Vienna Chess Open tournament.

DV Prasad was the first to become a men's International Master and was given the Arjuna Award in 1987. Ravi Gopal Hegde, Thej Kumar MS (who is on the verge of becoming a Grand Master), Shivananda BS, Stany GA, Viani Antonio D'Cunha, Raghunandan KS, Girish Kaushik and Pranav Anand followed in Prasad's footsteps.

— SS Shreekumar

CRIME FILES

Notorious goon finally stopped in his tracks

The Kempegowda Nagar police on Saturday arrested a notorious goon Kulla Rizwan, who is having over 20 criminal cases pending against him and is on the run ever since he was released recently on bail from the Central Prison. Rizwan is wanted in an NDPS case and is on the run even though a non-bailable warrant has been issued against him.

The police who were tracking down his movements arrested him from Shivamogga where he was hiding. According to the police, Rizwan runs a gang that has been spreading fear and also trying to eliminate his arch rivals Cycle Ravi and Bakery Raghu to control South Bengaluru.

Rizwan's name cropped up during a probe when the police caught a gang transporting marijuana in a car to sell it to their clients, the police added.

During the course of investigation, police found that Rizwan's associates had murdered a 26-year-old man on NICE underpass for passing a comment on rowdy elements and underworld during his birthday party celebration, last Sunday.

The accused had smashed the face of the man beyond recognition and the police had to identify the person through a tattoo on the hand.

— Bellie Thomas

Politician fires in air to scare neighbours

Fear gripped villagers of Doddagattiganabbe for some time on Friday evening, when a local leader of the ruling party ordered his gunman to open six rounds of fire in the air to scare his neighbours over a trivial row.

The accused Janardhana said to be close aide of MTB Nagraj, Minister of Municipal Administration, had started construction activities at his land in the village. The earth-mover is said to have damaged the compound wall of a neighbour, Rajesh, a former bank employee, which led to heated arguments. Soon villagers gathered at the spot.

In the melee, Janardhana allegedly ordered his gunman Naveen to open fire in the air and later allegedly assaulted Rajesh and his friend Sunil. Rajesh sustained injuries and was admitted to a private hospital. The Thirumalashettyhalli police rushed to the spot and recovered four empty cartridges from the spot while efforts are to trace two more empty shells, a senior police officer said.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case against Janardhana charging him under Arms act and assault and are investigating further.

- Bellie Thomas

Car break-in right behind top cop's office

An incident of burglary right next to the Police Commissioner's Office has raised concern among the public.

The burglars managed to zoom past a high security zone in front of Raj Bhavan and disappear with their stolen booty of Rs 4.5 lakh in cash. Despite a complaint, and CCTV footage, the police are unable to make any breakthrough in the case.

The incident, which had taken place last Saturday (July 16) in broad daylight, came to light recently. Sources in the police department had stated that though there are multiple CCTV cameras installed, only few of them function.

Lakshmeesh V, a businessman from Shantiniketan Layout, had gone to the Legal Metrology Office, located exactly behind the Police Commissioner's Office, leaving Rs 4.5 lakh in the dashboard of his car.

When he returned to his car after five minutes, he found the window glass broken and the money missing. Lakhmeesh saw the burglar and raised an alarm. He even chased the thief, but he managed to run and sit on a bike and zoomed past.

CCTV footage showed that the thief went in the one way opposite to Raj Bhavan and disappeared. **— IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Sweet potatoes are delicious root vegetables that are highly nutritious and jam-packed with health benefits

Ginger is loaded with antioxidants, including a specific compound called gingerol, which has been associated with a long list of health benefits

BangaloreMirror 13
Sunday, July 24, 2022
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MIND, BODY & HEART

All problems solved

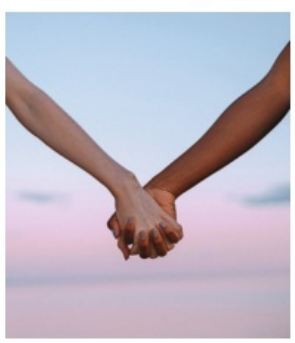
Dear Coleen

I'm a fairly recently divorced man in my 40s and I'm dating a really great woman.
She's fun, things feel light, and our relationship is a welcome change from my marriage, which was very hard work, especially towards the end.
My problem is, my girlfriend, who's the same age as me, is really flirtatious with other men and I'm struggling not to let jealousy get the better of me.
I haven't brought it up with her because I don't want to sound petty or cause an argument, but my ex-wife had affairs, so it's a bit of a trigger point. Any advice?

COLEEN SAYS

Trust is so important for the success of any relationship, and if you're struggling with that, then maybe this relationship isn't a long-term prospect. Maybe you need to be with a different type of person who doesn't trigger these feelings inside you.
But try talking to her about how you feel – she might not be aware of her behaviour or how it's making you feel. Maybe she doesn't even see it as flirting. It might prompt a bigger conversation about how she sees the relationship and where it's going. Some reassurance might be all you need.
And, remember, just because your ex cheated on you doesn't mean it will happen with every woman you date.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror



Flavours of South Asia

These recipes are versatile, easy to make and lip-smacking as well; plate up for a different menu!

KUNG PAO CHICKEN SKEWERS

Signature skewers grilled with a sweet soy chilli glaze and topped with peanuts

INGREDIENTS

- Chicken Leg Boneless: 250 gms
- Peanut Butter: 50 gms
- Peanut coarsely ground: 20 gms
- White vinegar: 20 ml
- Chopped garlic: 5 gms
- Fresh red chilli paste: 5 gms
- Finey chopped fresh red chilli: 2 gms
- Light soya sauce: 20 ml
- Oyster sauce: 10 gms
- Sugar: 20 gms
- Seasoning: to taste
- Bamboo skewers 6": 4 each

METHOD

- Mix all the ingredient except chicken in a bowl until sugar is dissolved.
- Take chicken into 12 equal cubes dry and marinate in half of the marinade mix previously for about 45 minutes or overnight. Reserve remaining marinade.
- Take 4 bamboo skewers place three cubes each per skewers. Place the chicken on a char griller for approx. 2 minutes on each sides basting it with reserved marinade regularly until it is cooked.
- Place on a plate sprinkle some roasted crushed peanuts, chop green onions and serve hot.

Prep Time: 20 mins **Marination Time:** 45 mins **Cooking Time:** 10 **Serves** 2

INDONESIAN SPICED FISH

Flaky fish marinated in tamarind spiced paste and charred grilled in a banana leaf wrap

INGREDIENTS

- Fish fillet: 250 gms
- Tamarind sauce: 60 gms
- Fish sauce: 5 ml
- Fresh Red chilli paste: 5 gms
- Oyster sauce: 10 gms
- Laksa curry paste: 40 gms
- Seasoning: to taste
- Banana leaves: as required.

METHOD

- Clean the fish fillets and pat dry. Keep it aside.
- Take rest of the ingredients and mix in a food processor or a bowl.
- Coat the fish with the marinade paste, wrap in banana leaves tightly at least twice so that liquid does not come out and tie with the banana fibre string. Keep for marination for at least half an hour.
- Grill the banana wrapped fish on a char grill from both the sides for about 10 to 15 minutes.
- Cut the wrapper from top garnish it with fried onions, lemon wedge and coriander leaves, serve hot.

TOFU IN THAI PEANUT SAUCE

Fried tofu tossed in a spicy peanut sauce

INGREDIENTS

- Silken Tofu: 300 gms
- Oil: 10 ml
- Ginger chopped: 10 gms
- Garlic chopped: 5 gms
- Thai red chillies sliced: 5 gms
- Thai peanut sauce: 80 gms
- Sambal oelek: 10 gms
- Spring onion chopped: 10 gms
- Stock or water: 30ml
- Salt: to taste

METHOD:

- Cut the tofu into 1 by 1-inch cubes, fry the tofu in hot oil until golden brown ensuring softness from inside.
- Meanwhile in a wok or a pan heat oil. Sauté ginger, garlic and fresh red chillies until translucent.
- Add thai peanut sauce to the wok along with sambal oelek give a stir for a while pour in stock to give a creamy texture.
- Add tofu to the sauce. Toss gently to coat the sauce all over the tofu to a thick and creamy consistency. Adjust seasoning. Garnish with spring onion and serve hot.

Prep Time: 20 mins **Cooking Time:** 15 **Serves** 2

Chef Priyank Singh Chouhan, Culinary Head at Shiro Bangalore

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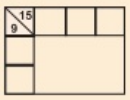
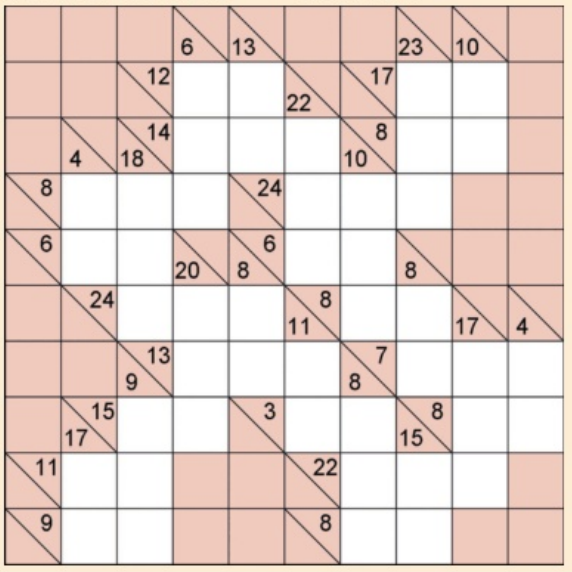
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

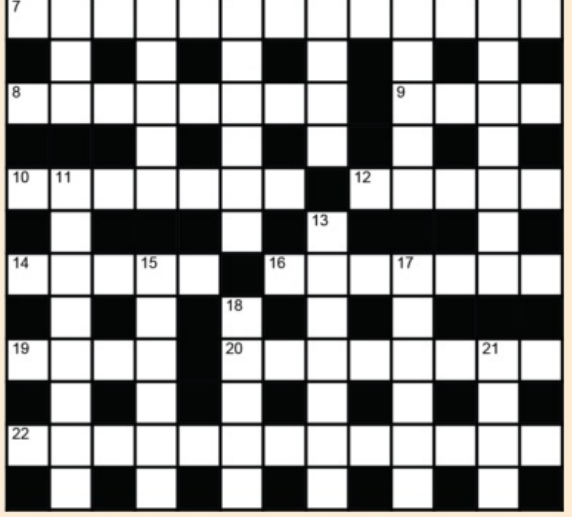


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Rhombus for one? (13)
8 Faucet for H2O (5,3)
9 Peruvian Indian (4)
10 Walk in a leisurely manner (7)
12 Shoals (5)
14 Writer's room (5)
16 Beard growth (7)
19 Declare (4)
20 Well-spoken (8)
22 Our High Court is also known by this name (6,7)

DOWN

1 Spanish home (4)
2 Turn ship on side for repairs, etc. (6)
3 Planned or schemed (7)
4 Slumbered (5)
5 Set on fire? (6)
6 Vigilant and observant; wary (8)
11 Stimulate to action (8)
13 Upholstered footstool (7)
15 Loose skin on throat (6)
17 Purchased (6)
18 Reach; imply? (3,2)
21 Police informer (sl). (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS G

THMHFA HB C XQFBICFI ZVQXYBB QJ EYXHEHFA UWCI UY CVY AQHFA IQ EQ.

Linemaro

Was your dad king? He must have been to make a princess like you

Mindchow

I must govern the clock, not be governed by it

Joke of the day

I never forget a face but in your case I'll be glad to make an exception

Loop

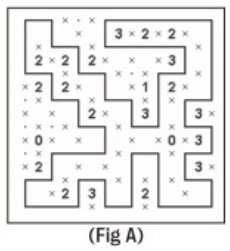
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

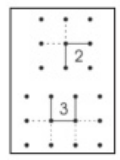
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

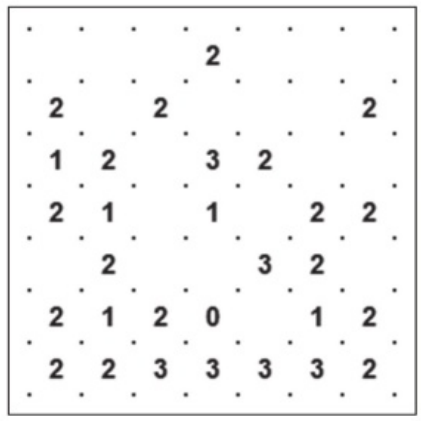
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



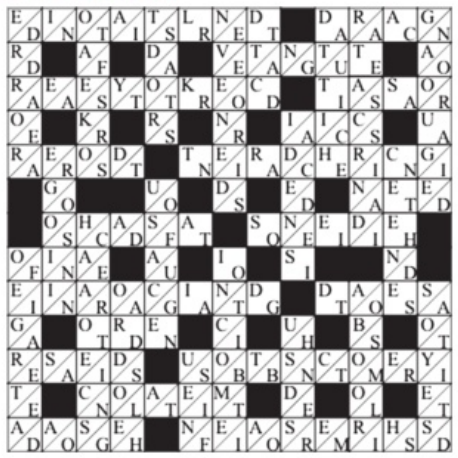
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



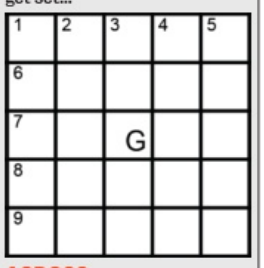
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

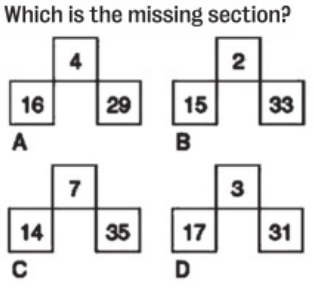
1 Crags; 6 Ilo up;
7 Auger; 8 Noels;
9 Us rad

DOWN

1 Spade; 2 On cur;
3 Or rig; 4 La Lau;
5 Guses

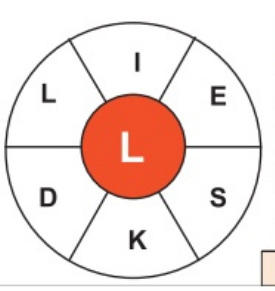
Mensapuzzle

Which is the missing section?



5	2	3	10
6	4	1	11
1	9	?	12
12	?	6	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

14 Average; **16** Good; **18** Outstanding

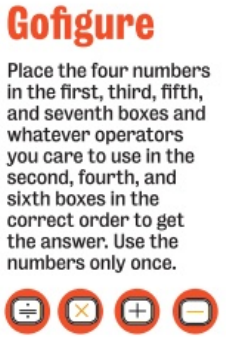
SudokuChallenge

		8	2		6	3		
	9	6	7		4	2	1	
3								5
7				6				9
			5		3			
4				8				3
6								2
	8	3	9		1	7	5	
		7	6		5	8		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

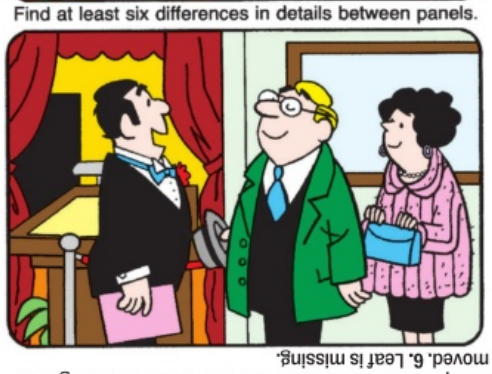
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



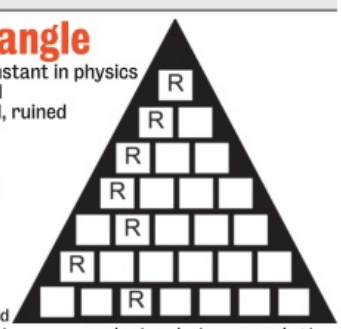
Differences: 1. Purse is different. 2. Coat is shorter. 3. Lapel is different. 4. Necklace is different. 5. Finger is moved. 6. Leaf is missing.

Riddler

You use a knife to slice my head and weep beside me when I'm dead. What am I?

Alpha triangle

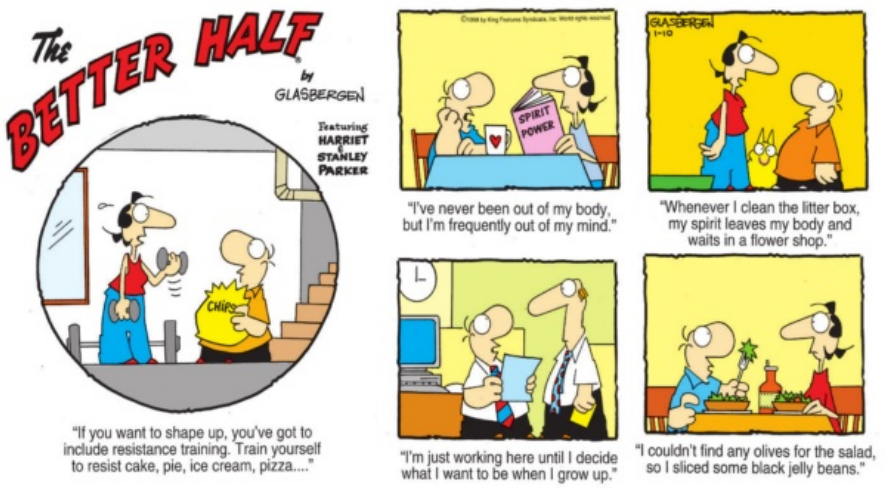
1 Universal gas constant in physics
2 Egyptian sun God
3 _ into the ground, ruined
4 Precipitation
5 Millet
6 Reigning queen
7 Making, pulling in

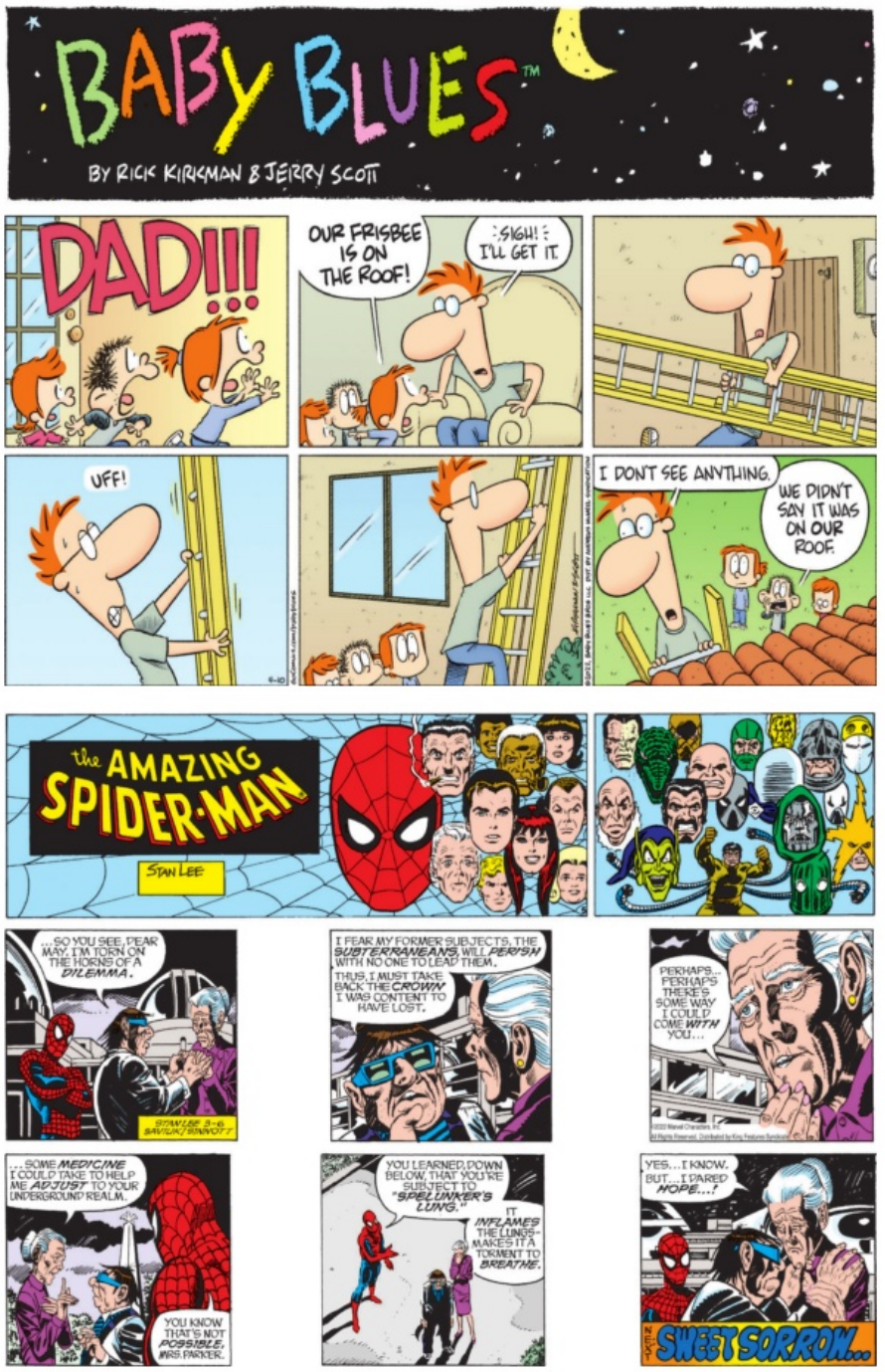


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
CHIPS
"If you want to shape up, you've got to include resistance training. Train yourself to resist cake, pie, ice cream, pizza...."
SPIRIT POWER
"I've never been out of my body, but I'm frequently out of my mind."
GLASBERGEN
"Whenever I clean the litter box, my spirit leaves my body and waits in a flower shop."
"I'm just working here until I decide what I want to be when I grow up."
"I couldn't find any olives for the salad, so I sliced some black jelly beans."


BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
DAD!!!
OUR FRISBEE IS ON THE ROOF!
SIGH! I'LL GET IT.
UFF!
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.
WE DIDN'T SAY IT WAS ON OUR ROOF.

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
...SO YOU SEE, DEAR MAY, I'M TORN ON THE HORNS OF A DILEMMA.
I FEAR MY FORMER SUBJECTS, THE SUBTERRANEANS, WILL PERISH WITH NO ONE TO LEAD THEM.
THUS, I MUST TAKE BACK THE CROWN. I WAS CONTENT TO HAVE LOST.
PERHAPS... PERHAPS THERE'S SOME WAY I COULD COME WITH YOU...
...SOME MEDICINE I COULD TAKE TO HELP ME ADJUST TO YOUR UNDERGROUND REALM.
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, MRS. PARKER.
YOU LEARNED, DOWN BELOW, THAT YOU'RE SUBJECT TO "SPELUNKER'S LUNG."
IT INFLAMES THE LUNGS— MAKES IT A TORMENT TO BREATHE.
YES... I KNOW. BUT... I DARED HOPE...!
SWEET SORROW...

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon, which will make you happy. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills. You might have to make an important decision regarding your business.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Moon is showering blessings on you today. It will be a good day at work. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may bring domestic harmony. You are likely to make plans to start some new project. Job seekers will find a suitable job. Love birds are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You might face health issues today. You may take a bad decision because of impatience. It is advised to think twice before making any decision. You should try to be wise while spending as you are likely to buy some worthless stuff.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Past investments are going to earn you profits today. It is a good day as the moon is showering blessings on you. You are going to make some firm decisions in terms of work. This decision is likely to be beneficial for the future.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you will find yourself quite busy at work. With the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Past investments are likely to give profits now. You may have romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Love bird may enjoy their happy moments.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. Last week's ill luck is now over. With this help of blessing, your hard work will pay off. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to restart postponed work. Gains in business are likely to happen soon.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today might be a dull day for you. You might have some health issues. You are advised to postpone any business investments. You are likely to face losses, so avoid starting a new venture. Take good care of your health.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may feel a boost of energy and enthusiasm. This will speed up pending projects. You will make quick decisions which will increase gains in your business. You are likely to start a new partnership. Avoid investments in any fixed asset with your business partner.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Moon is showering blessings on you today. You will feel healthy, and health issues might be resolved. Money which was stuck is likely to be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan to purchase some luxury.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you are blessed by Jupiter, which will give you a confidence boost. You may be able to make important decisions confidently. It is a good day so may grab the opportunity without a second thought. You are likely to spend money on family and friends. Love birds will enjoy their happy moments. Job aspirants may get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today might not be a great day. You may feel dull and gloomy. You might become a victim of arrogance that might affect both your professional and domestic life. You may feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work, and your hard work will pay now, which may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. You might meet someone influential today.

KIDZONE

Sadhvi Sanju, 6 Years, The New Cambridge English School

Prachi L Narayana, 6 Years, Sudharshan Vidya Mandir

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
24/(4/12)
24/(1/3)
24*3
72

BULL'S EYE
dell, dill, idle, isle, kill, killed, led, like, liked, sell, sidle, silk, sill, skill, slide SKILLED, sled, slid,

FAST FIVE

S	C	R	A	G
P	O	I	L	U
A	R	G	U	E
E	N	O	L	S
D	U	R	A	S

RIDDLER An onion

QUOTE UNCODE
Living is a constant process of deciding what we are going to do.

STRIKE OUT

E	N	T	I	T	L	E	D	D	R	A	G			
R	A	A	V	A	G	U	E	A						
R	E	S	T	O	R	E	D	T	S	A	R			
E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	I	N	G			
R	E	S	T		T	E	A	C	H	I	N	G		
D	O	S	E	N	E	A	R	M	I	S	S			
S	H	A	F	T	S	N	I	D	E					
F	I	E	A	I	I	D								
E	N	R	A	G	I	N	G	T	O	S	S			
A	O	D	E	C	U	B	L	E						
R	A	I	D	S	O	B	S	T	O	R	Y			
E	C	L	A	I	M	E	L	E						
A	L	T	M	G	A									
A	V	O	W	E	L	O	G	U	E	N	T			
I	E	G	T	O										
S	T	U	D	Y	S	T	U	B	B	L	E			
C	D	O												
S	A	U	N	T	E	R	R	E	E	F	S			
E	T	T	H											
W	A	T	E	R	T	A	P	I	N	C	A			
S	R	O	E	N	T									
P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L	O	G	R	A	M		

QUICK

C	C	P	S	I	W									
A	T	T	A	R	A	K	A	C	H	E	R	I		
A	V	O	W		E	L	O	G	U	E	N	T		
S	T	U	B	B	L	E								
S	A	U	N	T	E	R		R	E	E	F	S		
W	A	T	E	R	T	A	P		I	N	C	A		
S	R	O		E	N		T							
P	A	R	A	L	L	E	L	O	G	R	A	M		

MENSA PUZZLE
B: in lines and columns, add the first three numbers to arrive at the fourth number;

SUDOKU

1	7	8	2	5	6	3	9	4
5	9	6	7	3	4	2	1	8
3	2	4	8	1	9	6	7	5
7	3	5	4	6	2	1	8	9
8	1	2	5	9	3	4	6	7
4	6	9	1	8	7	5	2	3
2	8	3	9	4	1	7	5	6
6	5	1	3	7	8	9	4	2
9	4	7	6	2	5	8	3	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Ra, Ran, Rain, Grain, Regina, Earning.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 + 5 + 5 x 2 = 26
Medium
2 x 2 x 4 – 3 = 13
Hard
3 x 3 – 6 x 1 = 3

LOOP

KAKURO

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Shonka Dukureh no more– Singer and actress Shonka Dukureh (44), who played Big Mama Thornton in Baz Luhrmann's 'Elvis', was found dead in her apartment on Thursday, the police said

Works for Suriya

'National Award motivates me to work harder, walk my talk'

Superstar Suriya on Saturday vowed to "work harder" and continue making good films after his Tamil movie "Soorarai Pottru" emerged as the big winner at the 68th National Film Awards.

The 2020 Tamil-language drama on Friday won five awards, including Best Feature Film, Best Actor for Suriya, Best Actress for Aparrna Balamurali, Best Screenplay for Sudha Kongara and Shalini Usha Nair, and Best Music Direction (Background Music) for GV Prakash Kumar.

Suriya, who shared the Best Actor award with "Tanhaji – The Unsung Warrior" star Ajay Devgn, posted a statement on Twitter and said he is feeling ecstatic about his film winning five National Awards.

"The National Award gives me the motivation to work harder and walk my talk... and give you all good films, now & always," the actor, who turned 47 on Saturday, said.

Suriya thanked his fans and followers for showering love on "Soorarai Pottru", inspired by the life of Air Deccan founder Capt G R Gopinath.

"My heartfelt thanks for all the love and good wishes that has reached us and enriched our lives so far... We are ecstatic with the Five National awards for 'Soorari Pottru'. The overwhelming reception for our films, which was released directly on OTT during a pandemic, has made our eyes well up in joy," the actor said.

The National Award recognition is a testimony of director Kongara's "many years of hard work and creative vision of Captain Gopinath's story", he added.

Suriya also thanked director Vasanth Sai and filmmaker Mani Ratnam for believing in him and giving him his first film "Nerukku Ner" (1997).

"I extend my gratitude to director Vasanth Sai and filmmaker-producer Maniratnam, who placed their faith in my acting abilities and gave me my first film, 'Nerukku Ner'."

The "Jai Bhim" star gave a shout out to his actor-wife Jyotika for encouraging him to do "Soorarai Pottru".

"My special thanks to my Jyotika, who insisted I should produce & act in 'Soorarai Pottru'. My love and 'Thank You' to all those who have encouraged my efforts so far and to my Amma and Appa, Karthi and Brinda, who have supported me always. I dedicate this award to my kids Diya and Dev and to my loving family," he added.

Suriya also congratulated fellow winner Devgn and all the other National Award recipients.

—PTI

Great adaptations

The latest Netflix adaptation of Jane Austen's classic has left us wanting more. Tina Freese picks her favourite films from before

Emma (2020)

The story of Emma is well loved by every Austen fan. The snobbish attitude of the heroine may inspire hate, but it is those flaws that also make you love her. What sets Austen's work apart is how human her characters are, they are flawed and commit mistakes. The makers of this adaptation made perfect use of the excellently written story and added a drop of modernity. Anna Taylor Joy is a delight to watch and the perfect Emma.

Pride and Prejudice (2005)

Never have I ever seen a more perfect depiction of Austen's classic love story Pride and Prejudice. From the classical music to its exquisite-looking ball gowns, the makers spared no details. For a moment or two, you will forget that you don't live in 18th-century England and use sentences that go: "What a superbly featured room and what excellent boiled potatoes! Many years since I've had such an exemplary vegetable."

Persuasion (2007)

This might be an unpopular opinion but if I have to choose my favourite Austen love story, it's going to be Persuasion. The maturity and sobriety of the story make it more compelling than any other. The longing for love and the beautiful countryside description make one swoon. The makers of this 2007 adaptation do precisely that. They stay true to the book and there you go– a heartwarming adaptation is served. Sally Hawkins is, I believe, the Anne Elliot we needed and she did justice to her character.

Mansfield Park (1999)

Last but not in any way least is the 1999 adaptation of Mansfield Park. The story is about a journey: You see Fanny Price, a girl merely ten years old, is sent to live with a rich relative. Her struggles as she tries to fit into a society she does not belong to and her quest for love are what make the story a delight to read. The makers of the film knew this well. By giving it a little bit of a aesthetic touch and with the right choice of actors, they were able to create a great movie.

Sense and sensibility (1995)

The 1995 adaptation of the book is still considered to be one of the best book-to-movie adaptations. The actors deliver amazing performances and the makers very well utilise every bit of Austen's excellent writing. The story portrays the fate of two young sisters who very recently were hit by abject poverty. They have to take care of the family while dealing with heartbreaks. One cannot think of any other actress playing Marriane's character other than Kate Winslet. She perfectly portrays the character's young and immature nature at the beginning and her transformed maturity by the end.

Simply awesome

Vijay Deverakonda's simple style at the trailer launch of 'Liger' has got everyone talking. An impressed Ranveer Singh had even commented that Vijay was the only actor to expertly pull off the 'chappal' swag after John Abraham. And now, Vijay's stylist has revealed some interesting details about the actor's trailer day attire.

For the event, Vijay sported simple cargo pants, a black T-shirt and chappals. Vijay's stylist Harmann Kaur told a news portal that the actor was keen to wear something that was close to his character in the film and insisted on an 'underdog' look. Harmann also stated that Vijay specifically asked for simple chappals and even picked a customised T-shirt with 'THE' written over it. With his simple inputs, Vijay ended up winning hearts!

The trailer of 'Liger' got much love. Expressing gratitude, Vijay had said, "This mental mass of fans is driving me crazy."

—ETimes